Fully blown Aids cases by Madras Medical College, Madras

237. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICMR, AIDS surveillance Centre, Madras Medical College, Madras has recovered a full blown AIDS case once in eight days; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of these people belong to the lower middle classes and from the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what preventive measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No Sir. The number of AIDS cases detected in Madras Medical College, Madras from 1980 to January, 1993 is 47.

(c) It has been reported that most of the patients detected were from urban and semi-urban areas and belonging to lower middle classes.

(d) The Government have chalked up a multi-sectoral National Programme to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in the country with the assistance of World Bank and WHO. The programme estimated to cost about Rs. 222.6 crores during the Eighth Five-Year Plan Period, has the following components:

—Strengthening the Management capacity for HIV control of the central as well as State levels;

—Promoting Public awareness and community support;

—Improving Blood Safety and the rational use of blood;

—Controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases; and

—Building surveillance and clinical management capacity;

Action on all these components has commenced during the current financial year.

National Drug Authority

238. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Policy of 1986 provides for a National Drug Authority and if so, whether it has since been formed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has not been considered feasible to set up such an Authority. It has, however, been decided to strengthen and upgrade the Drugs Standard Control Organisations, both at the Central and State levels?

Appointment of a qualified Director to the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta

239. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of the Director of the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta has been withheld to the detriment of teaching and Research; and

(b) what steps have been taken to appoint a properly qualified Director on a substantive basis so that the Institute may serve the purpose for which it was set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b)

The post has fallen vacant since 1-2-93 and steps are being taken to fill it up on regular basis.

Code of Medical Ethics

240. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Code of Medical Ethics exists in India;

(b) if so, what is this Code;

(c) which is the agency which enforces this Code; and

(d) How many cases of violation of this Code have been detected during the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Medical Council of India and the State Medical Councils have framed a Code of Medical Ethics to regulate the medical profession in the country, which is supposed to be observed by all persons whose names are borne on the Indian Medical Register. The Code of Medical Ethics is approved by the Central Government u/s 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

(d) As per information provided by the Medical Council of India, out of 300 complaints received, only in 3 cases violation has been detected and action taken so far.

Pregnancy related deaths

241. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen a press report of the recently held 36th All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology where it was stated that nearly 125,000 women die due to pregnancy related causes annually; and

(b) if so, what programme Government has launched or proposes to start to bring down the aforesaid maternal mortality?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Family Welfare has undertaken several interventions to reduce maternal mortality rates in the country. These include :—

1. Universal Immunization Programme — Two doses of tetanus toxoid are given in the ante-natal period to protect women against tetanus.

2. Maternal and Child Health — Iron and folic acid tablets are provided as a prophylaxis against anaemia. In the basic training programmes of the female health workers, screening of pregnant women with high risk factors and their referral for medical care has been included. Over 5 lakh traditional birth attendants have been trained for providing clean delivery services.

3. A new Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme (CSSM) has been launched in 1992-93 at a total cost of Rs. 1125 crores. It will be implemented throughout the country in phases over a period of 7 years. Additional funds have been provided to the states to supply disposable delivery kits to pregnant women to be used by the attendant during delivery to ensure clean delivery. Birth spacing is being promoted as a measure to reduce maternal mortality as the risks of maternal deaths are higher in areas with high fertility rates.

51 selected districts have been taken up under the CSSM Programme in 1992-93. Medical Officers and peripheral health staff have been retained to improve quality and coverage of the services. Midwifery kits have been supplied to the female health workers.